

'Funny-dime' prices have owners laughing

By Roger Boye

Prices for 1982 no-mint-mark dimes—the dramatic coin error first discovered six months ago—continue to surge, with some dealers offering to pay as much as \$275 per uncirculated keepsake.

Experts now believe that Uncle Sam produced 7,000 or more of the "funny dimes," up from earlier estimates of fewer than 2,000. The errors were created when government engravers forgot to stamp a mint mark into just one of the hundreds of dies used to make 1982 dimes.

Some of the rarities could turn up in Chicago, although the chances of finding one are slim. The mint apparently sent most of the dimes to the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank, and from there the coins went to banks in Sandusky, Ohio.

At least one hobby pro believes that a few Sandusky residents could be sitting on small hoards of the coins, waiting for an even higher price before unloading them.

● Despite the soft precious-metal market in recent weeks, bureaucrats once again have boosted prices for special commemorative coins honoring the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Each three-coin set now costs \$416, up \$6 from the amount charged between Jan. 26 and June 5, and \$64 more than the initial tab. Mint bosses currently want \$32 for a 1983 proof silver dollar and \$64 for both a 1983 and 1984 proof dollar; buyers should add \$2 for postage per order.

For an order form, write to Bureau of the Mint, P.O. Box 6766, San Francisco, Calif. 94101. Buyers of the three-coin sets will receive one silver dollar this year and a .484-ounce gold coin and second silver dollar next year.

● The Royal Canadian Mint will accept orders until Nov. 30 for Canada's five official coin collectibles for 1983.

Prices range from \$6.35 in Canadian funds for an uncirculated set of six coins to \$38.15 for a seven-coin proof set containing two dollar coins, one made with silver. To order, write to the Royal Canadian Mint, Box 457, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8V5 Canada.

● In yet another hobby offering, the United States Capitol Historical Society is accepting orders for its 1983 medal commemorating the Treaty of Paris signed on Sept. 3, 1783.

The medal is sixth of 12 to be issued by the society, a nonprofit educational organization chartered by Congress. Profits are used to fund research on the U.S. Capitol and Congress.

Society members are selling five types of medals, ranging in price from \$8 for a 1½-inch bronze specimen to \$600 for the 18-karat-gold version. Write for more information to the society at 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.